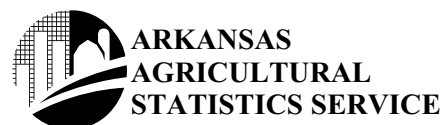


ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY



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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

10800 Financial Centre Parkway
Suite 110
Little Rock, AR 72211
(501) 228-9926
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/ar/>

ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS UP 6 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

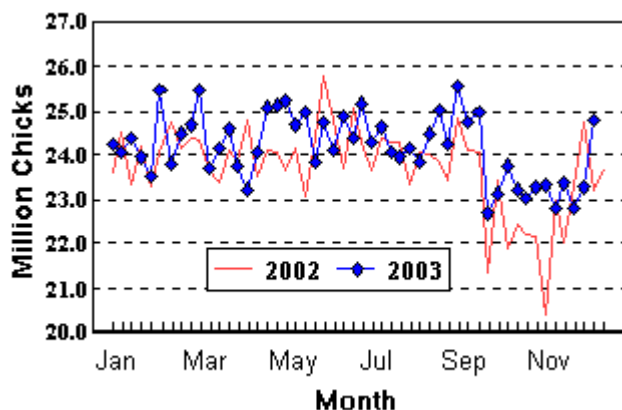
Broiler-type **chicks placed** for meat production in Arkansas was 24.8 million during the week ending December 20, 2003. Placements were up 6 percent from both the comparable week in 2002, and also from the previous week, and included 2.4 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through December 20, 2003 were 1.23 million, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type **chicks hatched** for the week was 25.6 million, up 5 percent from the corresponding week a year earlier, and up 2 percent from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 2.8 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 82.6 percent.

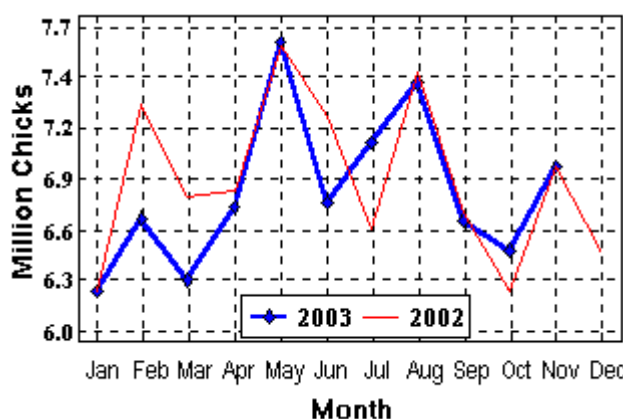
Arkansas hatcheries **set** 30.8 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending December 20, 2003, up 2 percent for the same period last year, but down 1 percent from the previous week.

Leading breeders in the **UNITED STATES** placed 6.9 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during November 2003, up slightly from November 2002.

**ARKANSAS BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS
BY WEEK, 2002 - 2003**



**U.S. BROILER-TYPE PULLET CHICKS PLACED
FOR DOMESTIC HATCHERY SUPPLY FLOCKS**



NET PLACEMENTS IN ARKANSAS

Week Ending	Year		% Change
	2002	2003	
	1,000		
Nov. 15	20,431	23,335	114
Nov. 22	22,968	22,777	99
Nov. 29	21,996	23,381	106
Dec. 6	23,291	22,786	98
Dec. 13	24,762	23,280	94
Dec. 20	23,254	24,764	106

U.S. PULLET CHICKS PLACED

Month	Year		% Change
	2002	2003	
	1,000		
Jun.	7,206	6,748	94
Jul.	6,602	7,071	107
Aug.	7,449	7,401	99
Sep.	6,676	6,654	100
Oct.	6,265	6,485	104
Nov.	6,938	6,946	100

BROILER EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2003

STATE	EGGS SET (in Thousands)					CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands)						
	Week Ending				1/ %	Week Ending						1/ %
	29-Nov	06-Dec	13-Dec	20-Dec		15-Nov	22-Nov	29-Nov	06-Dec	13-Dec	20-Dec	
Alabama	29,276	29,379	29,560	29,403	107	20,197	19,326	21,133	21,822	21,878	21,938	101
ARKANSAS	30,923	30,571	30,992	30,777	102	23,335	22,777	23,381	22,786	23,280	24,764	106
Delaware	3,785	3,828	3,805	3,777	111	4,306	4,901	6,159 *	4,892	4,689	4,857	91
Florida	1,352	1,354	1,354	1,353	86	1,664	1,548	1,809	1,644	1,420	1,616	92
Georgia	33,051 *	31,664	33,269	32,128	107	22,525	23,264	24,971 *	25,137	24,688 *	25,840	105
Kentucky	6,895	6,965	6,768	6,781	103	5,174	5,219	5,051	5,432	5,849	5,647	103
Maryland	8,865 *	8,763	8,868	8,884	90	5,270	5,636	5,243 *	5,299	5,942	6,101	105
Mississippi	19,027	19,237	19,396	19,182	103	15,291	14,292	15,146	15,738	15,804	16,228	102
N. Carolina	18,386 *	16,791	18,004 *	18,046	102	14,247	13,844	14,130 *	14,550	14,354 *	14,608	102
Oklahoma	6,312	6,358	6,371	6,442	101	4,374	4,255	4,476	5,858	5,512	4,383	94
Pennsylvania	3,841	3,795 *	3,624 *	3,775	103	2,421	2,496	2,674	2,663 *	2,669 *	2,637	103
S. Carolina	3,940	3,794	3,861	3,517	72	3,342	4,325	4,294	4,273	3,842	4,469	117
Texas	14,854	14,151	13,879	14,882	101	10,738	11,887	12,276	12,030	12,292	12,356	105
Virginia	6,622	6,438	6,349	6,325	102	5,629	4,953	4,527	5,822	5,285	5,131	87
CA, LA, MO, IN, WV	21,440	20,653 *	20,438	21,068	111	17,217	17,971	19,141	19,868	19,187 *	19,581	109
Total 2003	208,569 *	203,741 *	206,538 *	206,340		155,730	156,694	164,411 *	167,814 *	166,691 *	170,156	
Total 2002	202,537	199,994	203,251	200,056		147,970	154,972	161,690	161,841	163,147	164,898	
%Prev. Year	103	102	102	103		105	101	102	104	102	103	
Approximate Marketing Date 2004.....						03-Jan	10-Jan	17-Jan	24-Jan	31-Jan	07-Feb	

* Revised. 1/ Current week as percent of the same week last year.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 3 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 206 million eggs during the week ending December 20, 2003. This was up 3 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED UP 3 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 170 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 20, 2003. Placements were up 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through December 20, 2003 were 8.48 billion, down slightly from the same period a year earlier.